

In US patent number 6,077,608; Barkac et al. teach to use contiguous layers that are compatible. See for instance col. 2, line 53-61:

“Also the crosslinkable film-forming polymer or copolymer of the powder clear coat is compatible with the base coat, and the powder clear coat and the base coat are cured together to provide the multicomponent composite coating. This compatibility reduces any adverse interaction between the crosslinkable mobile film-forming polymer of the clear powder coating and any interfering chemical components of the basecoat that may reduce the mobility of the mobile film-forming polymer/copolymer.”

Since Barkac et al. teach to use compatible layers, it clearly teaches away from the claimed invention.

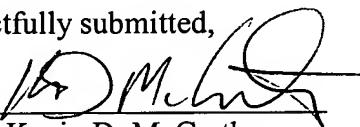
In US patent number 5,914,164; Ciocca et al., on the other hand, requires the presence of a tie layer. See the summary of the invention, col. 3, lines 42-43:

“(iii) two inner adhesive layers each adhering to opposite respective surfaces of the core layer”

The cited references clearly teach away from the present claimed invention. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

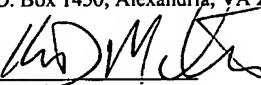
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